

# How the CIA turns local scientists into spies

by Don Walsh

The Central Intelligence Agency has approached scientists and engineers in the Rochester area asking them to inform on meetings they have had with Soviet or Soviet block scientists.

Contacts, in most cases, were made by a CIA representative operating out of an unlisted and unmarked Syracuse office. The agency maintains at least 20 such clandestine offices in cities throughout the U.S.

The information was being gathered for the agency's Directorate of Science and Technology, a 1300 employee branch

of the agency with a budget of \$120 million.

Although none of the scientists contacted reported any suggestion of coercion or threats by the agent, an ex-intelligence agent told the Patriot that subtle pressure can be employed if necessary.

And in New York City recently, an American scientist who has been called the "world's first space doctor," told how the CIA burglarized his offices after he refused to spy on Russian scientists for them. (See related story on page 8.)

One scientist contacted here admitted he was "a little troubled about the inquiry" and was unsure whether he would answer CIA inquiries if asked again.

The local scientists, who are connected with several companies and academic institutions, say the pattern of inquiry by the CIA has been the same.

While some scientists are reported to have refused to talk with the CIA, others have, often after initial reservation, cooperated freely.

The scientists were all contacted after having attended an international conference of their associates, sometimes here in the U.S., but more often overseas. The CIA inquiry pertained to Soviet or iron curtain country scientists who were also at the meeting.

None of the local scientists known to have cooperated with the CIA works on classified or national security related scientific problems.

While the local scientists don't work on national security questions, the CIA questions have been directed towards trying to ascertain the foreign nations' capabilities in areas of possible military significance.

Most of the companies and institutions involved appeared

willing to be co-operative, if at all, to CIA inquiries. None wanted to discuss in any detail their relationship with the agency.

Typical was the Eastman Kodak Company whose spokesperson told the Patriot that "companies with operations outside the U.S. are called upon from time to time by various government agencies to provide information about general conditions abroad.

"Insofar as we are able, we respond to such requests, including those which come to us occasionally from the CIA. Aside from that, we have no further comment."

At Xerox, a representative told the Patriot that the company would "co-operate with any legal request from a government agency and would encourage our employees to do the same."

The University of Rochester said it would not become involved in individual faculty decisions.

None of the companies or institutions would say they had knowledge of any of their employees being approached by the CIA.

This domestic activity of the

CIA, unlike other recently revealed operations, is completely within the legal powers delegated to the agency.

However, the agency has not responded to a Patriot inquiry to discuss the extent of this phase of their domestic activities.

Contrary to what might be expected, scientists who have cooperated with the CIA have political opinions that cover the political spectrum.

While the more liberal scientists have had qualms about cooperating because of the agency's other activities, some said they believe that they should cooperate when the agency has legitimate interests.

Other scientists have suggested that reporting on their evaluations of fellow scientists to an intelligence agency violates principles of scientific cooperation. According to this view, the people who later answered the CIA's questions should have at least made their foreign colleagues aware of their intentions.

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